



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#10
Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JUN 7 2004

Office of Regulatory Policy
HFD - 13
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Attention: Claudia Grillo

The attached application for patent term extension of U.S. Patent No. 6,306,900 was filed on April 23, 2004, under 35 U.S.C. § 156.

The assistance of your Office is requested in confirming that the product identified in the application, Myfortic®, has been subject to a regulatory review period within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 156(g) before its first commercial marketing or use and that the application for patent term extension was filed within the sixty-day period after the product was approved. Furthermore, the Food and Drug Administration is requested to confirm the identity of the active ingredient of Myfortic®. Is the active ingredient mycophenolate sodium, or is it mycophenolic acid? The approval letter, Exhibit B, appears to identify the active ingredient as mycophenolic acid.

Since a determination has not been made whether the patent in question claims a product which has been subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or a method of manufacturing or use of such a product, this communication is NOT to be considered as notice which may be made in the future pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A).

Our review of the application to date indicates that the subject patent would be eligible for extension of the patent term under 35 U.S.C. § 156.

Inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 306-3159 (telephone) or (703)872-9411 (facsimile).

Karin Ferriter
Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza Bldg 430
East Hanover NJ 07936-1080